



The Price of Freedom

*Story and photos by Spc. Zia Ul Haq
211th Mobile Public Affairs Office*

Kandahar Air Field, Afghanistan – With every rocket attack and detonated land mine, it is clear that the coalition forces will need the Afghan people's help to completely defeat the terrorists in Afghanistan. It is this need for patriotic citizens that has created the premier fighting force of Afghanistan, the Afghan National Army.

For seven years the Afghan people lived in fear of the Taliban. Before the coalition came to Afghanistan, the locals had to live with and abide by the outrageous laws the Taliban regime imposed.

If a person had long hair or cut off his beard, he

could be beaten, jailed, or forced into military service. Anyone caught listening to music, or even playing a game of soccer could face the same fate. It was also against the law to speak out against the government.

"The people were not free; they had to do whatever the Taliban wanted," said the twenty year old Sgt. Major of the ANA 3rd Brigade, 1st Battalion Commandos, Mohammed Mirwas.

"When it was time to pray, people would repeatedly get thrown into the mosque regardless of the fact that they had already prayed," added

—See ANA pg. 9

MPs Ensure a Safe Airfield

*Story by Spc. Timothy S. Melzow
Photos by Spc. Zia Ul Haq
211th Mobile Public Affairs Office*

Kandahar Air Field, Afghanistan — Familiar faces at Kandahar Air Field (KAF) can almost go unnoticed, but the 274th Military Police (MP) Company, from Washington DC, makes it a point to only let the authorized people on to the base. The 274th MPs perform an array of tasks to ensure operations on KAF continue without incident. With over 100 soldiers performing these duties, day to day life is anything but routine.

The Inspector General —See MP pg. 3



Sgt. Brett A. Luoma, of the 274th MP searches a civilian vehicle at the main gate on Kandahar Air Field.





S.Koreans Rally Over Impeachment; North Blames U.S.

By Oh Jung-hwa and Martin Nesirky

SEOUL (Reuters) - Tens of thousands of South Koreans protested Sunday against the impeachment of their president in an opposition-inspired vote which North Korea described as insulting coup hatched in Washington.

Police said 35,000 people, many waving candles, took part in Sunday's peaceful rally in central Seoul, fewer than Saturday but still a potent symbol of popular frustration with the vote Friday to unseat Roh for breaking an election law.

"I came here to impeach those spoiled politicians, who have made huge mistakes and still do not realize their wrongdoings," said Cha Jee-hoon, a 25-year-old university student in Seoul.

North Korea pointed the finger of blame for the first time.

"It was none other than the United States that sparked such a disturbing develop-

ment," the official KCNA news agency quoted a North Korean spokesman as saying. "The U.S. had hatched such a plot for impeachment in South Korea since October."

The spokesman, from the body that oversees relations with the South, did not elaborate on the plot. He said the South Korean opposition had driven the vote through parliament in what amounted to a coup and had insulted the South Korean people.

Friday's vote, amid rowdy scenes in parliament, stunned many and thrust the country into uncertainty. The Constitutional Court has six months to decide whether to uphold the vote, and Prime Minister Goh Kun is acting president during that time.

South Korea underscored its desire to keep its economy on track despite impeachment by saying its finance minister would travel to New York, London and Hong Kong to reassure investors.

Two Dead in Michigan College Shooting

BATTLE CREEK, Mich. - A policeman who pulled over a car near a community college Saturday morning found the two passengers shot to death and the driver seriously injured.

The officer spotted the car driving erratically near Kellogg Community College and the wounded driver pulled into a circular drive at the school, police Cmdr. Jackie Hampton said.

Police said it was unclear where the shooting took place.

The car's driver was identified as Eric Wanzer, 24, of Battle Creek. He was in serious

condition. The dead were identified as Clova Keyes, 20, and Antwain Carmouche, 17, both of Battle Creek.

A preliminary investigation suggested the victims were not students and the shooting did not appear to be connected with the school, police said.

Police said they had no suspects in custody.

The campus was closed until police determined there was no danger to the college. The scene of the shooting remained cordoned off. Battle Creek is about 120 miles west of Detroit.



Mountain Warrior Weekly falls under the supervision of The Combined Joint Task Force 180 and is published weekly on Mondays.

Coalition Task Force

Warrior Commander:

Col. William B. Garrett III

Coalition Task Force Warrior

Command Sgt. Maj.

Command Sgt. Maj. Frank A. Grippe

10th Mountain Brigade PAO:

Capt. Kevin K. Dasher

Mountain Warrior Weekly, a U.S.

Army newsletter, is produced by

the 211th Mobile Public Affairs

Detachment, U.S. Army Reserve at

Kandahar Air Field, Afghanistan.

Commander:

Capt. Kevin K. Dasher

NCOIC:

Sgt. Alex Delgado

Editor/Layout/Graphics:

Spc. Zia Ul Haq

Journalist / Photojournalist:

Spc. Timothy S. Melzow

Spc. C. Elijah Spencer

In accordance with AR 360-1, this newsletter is an authorized unofficial publication for members of the U.S. military. The contents of *Mountain Warrior Weekly* are not necessarily the official views of or endorsed by the U.S. government, DOD or Dept. of the Army. (all submissions are subject to editing for size)



*MP from pg. 1*

was at KAF surveying the short term holding facility. On March 12, 2004 the 274th MPs were complimented on how smooth their facilities were run. 1st Sgt. Michael Collins of the 274th MP Company, from Montclair, VA had nothing but compliments for his troops.

"We have three platoons from DC [Washington DC] and one platoon from the 34th MP Company from Minnesota augmented to the 274th [MP Company]. We all work together, and everyone is great to work with here," said Collins.

The 274th MPs have three basic missions on base: the first is Law and Order, the second is the short term holding facility, and the last is gate security. While performing gate security, the MPs stand watch 24 hours a day, in all weather conditions. As part of their duty, searches of local national workers are conducted before they are let on to base.

Law and order is a task that encompasses the enforcement of the base's rules such as traffic and criminal laws. The 274th is responsible for the decrease of shoplifting at the Post Exchange. The weekly bazaar is big event for them, and requires planning and coordination with other units on base.

The 274th works with the 10th MPs, the Patriot K-9s, and the 280th Romanian Infantry Battalion to insure the bazaar is a safe event that everyone can enjoy. A lot of security is in place to reduce the chances of an improvised explosive device (IED) making it into the bazaar. Vendors are searched, vehicles are inspected, the K-9s sweep through all of the vehicles, and all of the vendors' stalls are inspected thoroughly. The 274th also stops drugs, weapons, and other contraband from entering KAF via the bazaar.

Collins added "the bazaar is high risk but with all of our security in place we haven't had one force protection incident since we had boots on the ground."

The MPs find all sorts of contraband and other prohibited items during inspections of people, places, and vehicles.

"We have found everything from firearms, mortars, and mines. Drugs that include: cocaine, marijuana, and opium have been found



Sgt. Luoma conducts a search under a civilian vehicle.

and confiscated. It surprises me sometimes to find this stuff during our random searches," Collins added.

On Saturday, March 13th the ba-

zaar was cancelled before it was started, because the explosives dog alerted on suspicious vehicle. Explosive ordinance disposal (EOD) was called out to further investigate the vehicle, after the MPs used a vapor trace device to check for explosive residue. Collins added because of this incident, the bazaar cancelled.

"We called it off [the bazaar], because of the dog's reaction. It's better to be safe, than sorry," said Collins.

Collins comments on how well the 10th Mountain Division treats all soldiers. "There is no delineation here. This is the first time I have ever experienced on deployment, that all 3 branches [Active, Reserve, and National Guard] were treated the same; as one Army. It's good thing to see," said Collins.

The 10th Mountain Division and all the residents of KAF can always count on the 274th MPs to keep the base safe and secure. Performing their duties in around the clock operations, the 274th MP Company can rest assured that their contributions will never go unnoticed?

Conquest

*by Staff Sgt. John E. Sellars
C co. 1/130th Avn.*

In the night as I rest,
my thoughts linger on my quest.
She is a young and a beautiful sight.
She's my conquest for the night.
As I sleep I am awoken
with the movement she has taken.
In the night and to my right,
a not resides of my plight.
She is gone but words are here,
they strike in me a resounding fear.
She said, "Of lust you have fed,
this very ct shall make you dead.
For within my bones a virus lie,
a virus that will multiply.
You're my conquest can't you see?
I conquered you .. you no me.





World News

Taliban attack leaves four dead at border

By STEPHEN GRAHAM
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

KABUL, Afghanistan — Suspected Taliban fighters attacked a government office near the Pakistani border, police said Sunday, killing three militants, hours after the U.S. military announced a new drive to crush insurgents and track down Osama bin Laden.

The attack Saturday evening in southern Kandahar province sparked a gunbattle that also left one Afghan soldier dead and two soldiers wounded, Kandahar deputy police chief Gen. Salim Khan said.

Separately, two rockets hit the capital of eastern Laghman province, killing one civilian, the province's governor said Sunday.

A rocket tore through the roof of the man's home late Saturday in Mehtarlam, Gov. Mohammed Ibrahim Babkerkhel said. The second rocket landed in an open field near Babkerkhel's home, shattering windows there and at several nearby houses.

Afghan officials also said they had arrested three Taliban suspects in an operation with U.S. forces.

At least 160 people have been killed in violence so far this year, highlighting the insecurity still plaguing the country more than two years after U.S.-led forces ousted the Taliban for harboring bin Laden.

Commanders of the 13,500-strong U.S.-led force have vowed to finish off the militants and snare bin Laden as well as Taliban leader Mullah Mohammed Omar this year.

The U.S. military on Saturday announced the start of "Mountain Storm" - its latest operation to track terror suspects in the south and east of the country.

Lt. Gen. David Barno, the top American commander in Afghanistan, has said his soldiers

are engaged in a "hammer-and-anvil" strategy along with Pakistani forces on the other side of the border.

Some 70,000 Pakistani troops have moved into semiautonomous tribal regions to take away maneuver room for al-Qaida and Taliban fugitives believed to have taken refuge there.

About 60 Taliban fighters struck the office of the district chief in the Shorabak district, some 105 miles southeast of Kandahar city, Khan said. It was the same district where five Afghan soldiers were shot dead by two dozen armed men in January.

The tracks of their vehicles showed they came from across the border in Pakistan and retreated there after the fight, he said.

Coalition forces were not involved in the gunbattle.

A man claiming to be a spokesman for the ousted Taliban militia, who identified himself as Qari Mahmood, said "we carried out this attack." The claim could not be independently confirmed.

In other violence,

- Three rockets were fired Sunday into Jalalabad, the capital of eastern Nangarhar province, said Yar Mohammed Khan, a Jalalabad security official. No injuries were reported, but the explosions shattered windows and toppled walls of two homes.

- A rocket fired Saturday into the Afghan capital flew over a U.N. compound as well as the headquarters of the U.S. military and Kabul's peacekeeping force, the peacekeepers said Sunday.

The rocket failed to detonate and landed near a sports stadium. No injuries were reported. A second rocket flew over the city's center and exploded on an open hillside.



A Pakistani border guard gestures to people waiting at a border crossing in Spinboldak, Afghanistan, Friday, March 12, 2004. Despite intense efforts by Pakistani, U.S. and Afghan military forces, Afghans insist that the border remains an open door for Taliban crossing into Afghanistan to carry out attacks. (AP Photo/Ed Wray)






World News

PRTs Fight Taliban With Bridges, Roads and Schools

**By Ron Synovitz,
Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty**

Kandahar, Afghanistan — Mohammad Nadi, a merchant from Helmand Province, has traveled across much of southwestern Afghanistan in the past year to reach the bazaars where he sells his goods.

He says what Afghans in the region's remote towns and villages want most from U.S. troops is security against the gangs of roving criminals and militia fighters who plunder their land and property.

Nadi says the U.S. military's Provincial Reconstruction Team (PRT) in Kandahar — which plans this month to start building roads to some of those remote settlements — is a key to winning lasting support from Afghans in places like Oruzgun Province, which spawned the Taliban movement.

"The people are pleased with the work [of the PRT]. But if they don't do this work, the people will not listen to [the Americans]. Nobody will take their advice. When they build the roads, the agriculture can improve. The robbers will be chased away and the people will get their land back," Nadi said.

"When [the Taliban] are telling the people, 'The central government doesn't care about you,' and [we] build a two-lane asphalt road through the center of their province — when clinics sprout up, when schools are renovated, when kids are sitting in a classroom — those are obvious symbols of the central government's concern for the people." Lt. Col Robert Duffy.

Lieutenant Colonel Robert Duffy, the U.S. Army officer overseeing the expansion of PRTs across five southern provinces, agrees that road construction is critical. Duffy knows that the Taliban became popular during the mid-1990s because they reigned in rampaging militia groups. He says the best way to prevent a Taliban comeback is to improve living conditions along with security.

"A lot of revolutions purport to bring things that people have never seen. You know, 'We're going to bring you freedoms that you don't have. We're going to give you land that you don't own.' The Taliban were here. They failed. Now they're trying to come back with the same little spin on, 'They don't care for you.' So a lot of

our efforts are on reconstruction. When [the Taliban] are telling the people, 'The central government doesn't care about you,' and [we] build a two-lane asphalt road through the center of their province — when clinics sprout up, when schools are renovated, when kids are sitting in a classroom — those are obvious symbols of the central government's concern for the people. The Taliban have nothing to do. They can't offer that. We're going to outbid them with reconstruction," Duffy told RFE/RL.

The Kandahar PRT is at the site of an old fruit factory on the northeast side of the city that has been converted to a forward operations base for U.S. forces. About 60 of the 80 soldiers there conduct security patrols — both on foot and in armored Humvees. The patrols show residents there is a U.S. security presence in the area. They also protect foreign reconstruction specialists who work in the city and surrounding villages.

Representatives of the U.S. State Department and the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) program also live on the Kandahar base. The PRT's construction specialists are due next week to start building a road linking Kandahar to Tarin Kowt, the provincial capital of Oruzgun Province.

Captain David Hartmann, a resident project manager at the Kandahar PRT, is excited about such projects. He is one of four U.S. military engineers who have volunteered to extend their tours in Afghanistan in order to work on PRT projects in the south. Hartmann said that "killing the bad guys" is important. But he also said that in the long run, the way for the United States to win against a pro-Taliban insurgency is "by building."

Duffy told RFE/RL that the reconstruction mission is complicated in areas where tribal rivalries run deep. "One of the first things I learned here is that the tribal influences are very key in Afghanistan," he said. "Knowing which tribe, which sub-tribe you are working with and dealing with is very important — both to understand the background in history and also to see that you are being equitable between the different tribes."

Duffy says another difficulty is the vast distance across the five provinces that the Kandahar PRT now has to cover — *see PRT pg. 10*





THE SPORTS

Law says Patriots lied to him

ESPN.com news services

The "bridge is burned." All-Pro cornerback **Ty Law** does not want to play another game for the **Patriots**.

Citing "irreconcilable differences," Law said he has told Patriots coach Bill Belichick and vice president of player personnel Scott Pioli his desire to play somewhere else after being "lied to" about their intentions, according to the Boston Globe.

"Right now, it's not about money," Law told the Globe this week. "That bridge is burned. I no longer want to be a Patriot. I can't even see myself putting on that uniform again, that's how bad I feel about playing here."

Law is under contract with the Pats for two more seasons, and wants an extension that would make him the highest-paid cornerback in the NFL. He is due to earn \$6.15 million in salary and a \$1 million reporting bonus this year, and \$8.75 million in salary plus another \$1 million reporting bonus next season.

He has asked the Pats to allow him to buy out his contract. They have declined, according to the Globe. Last month Law called the Patriots' four-year, \$26 million offer "an insult" and "a slap in the face." Law told the Globe this week that he thought negotiations would continue, but the team told him they would carry Law's \$10 million salary cap figure into next season. "They told me they didn't want to insult Ty anymore, so they're not going to submit any more offers," Carl Poston,

Law's agent, told the Globe. When Poston made the Pats a seven-year, \$63 million counteroffer that included \$20 million to sign and \$28 million over the first three years, Pioli reportedly responded with something to effect of "We can't do that. Save the paper."

"They told me one thing and did another," Law told the Globe. "They said we were going to talk. All of a sudden, negotiations are off. 'We're just going to keep it the way it is for this year.' No. It ain't going to be 'for this year.' I don't want no 'just for this year.' I don't want no years at all. Actually, I don't want a contract extension anymore because I no longer want to be a New England Patriot. I'm drop-dead serious about not wanting to be a part of this organization anymore."

This is not the first time Law has asked to be let go. Law told the Globe he asked Belichick to place him on the 2002 expansion list, which was due days after the Pats' Super Bowl XXXVI victory.

Trading Law or releasing him before June 1 would come with a cap hit of \$5.4 million, or the remaining prorated portion of his signing bonus. If the Patriots cut him after June 1, the cap hit this year would be \$2.7 million, and the \$2.7 million acceleration would be applied to the 2005 cap.

"I can't do a thing about it but express my displeasure about playing for this organization," Law told the Globe. "I'll go to training camp. I've got bonuses for going to training camp. I'm just saying it won't be a comfortable working atmosphere. It's

not a reason to hold out. I get \$1 million just to show up. Who wouldn't show up for \$1 million? The money ain't the thing, because I have that. Then again, I'm not going to sit here and say I don't want \$7 million, either. That's stupid. Hell, we all gotta eat.

"I'll go out there and play my game. I'm not saying I'm going to be the best guy to be around or your favorite guy to talk to. But I'm not going to hurt my teammates and I'm not going to hurt myself. I'm going to go out there and play football, because if you want to pay \$7 million to a guy that really doesn't want to be here, OK, this is business. Fine. You don't have to like your boss to work and do your job well."

The Patriots' offer essentially would guarantee Law \$15.6 million over the next two years (\$6.6 million bonus, salaries of \$4 million this year and \$5 million next year), according to the Globe. His current contract calls for him to earn \$16.9 million over the next two seasons.

"I would be a fool to take less than what I already make," Law told the newspaper. "So you're telling me, if I make \$17 million over the next two years, if I'm a Patriot, I'm going to accept \$15.6 million? That's a pay cut. I said it a thousand times, I'm not taking no pay cut. No. ... If this is a business and you can't afford to pay me what I deserve to be paid, that's fine. I have no problem with that. But let me go out there and earn the salary that I deserve and let me get the commitment from another team because I deserve more than just a one-year deal."





THE SPORTS

NHL must sign off before deal can be completed

Associated Press

ATLANTA— The NBA approved the \$250 million sale of the Atlanta Hawks and Thrashers on Friday, but the NHL must still sign off on the deal before the new ownership group can take over.

The NBA announced that its board of directors would allow the sale of the Hawks to a nine-man group headed by Boston businessman Steve Belkin, who was rebuffed in his bid for an expansion franchise in Charlotte.

"It's a dream to own one team, much less two teams," said Bruce Levenson, a member of the ownership group. "But we have one more hurdle to clear. Until that happens, I still can't pop the cork."

The Thrashers part of the deal must go through the NHL, which could take a vote of its owners by late next week.

"It's their process," said Levenson, who attended Friday night's game between the Hawks and Washington Wizards. "We would like to be told it's going to be such and such a time frame, but they are very focused on it and I think it will be very, very soon."

Already, the process of gaining approval for the new owners has taken six months — longer than anyone expected. The sale also includes Philips Arena, home of the Hawks and Thrashers.

"It's pretty unusual to do two sports teams at the same time," Levenson said. "I wouldn't have thought it would have taken this long, but it did. I guess there is no par for this course."

Actually, the sale process has dragged on for nearly a year. Dallas auto dealer David McDavid began exclusive talks to buy the teams last April, but could never close the deal.

With McDavid still believing his offer would work out, Time Warner suddenly changed course. The media conglomerate announced its was selling the teams to a group headed by Belkin, founder and chairman of the Boston-based marketing and investing company Trans National Group.

Belkin and Larry Bird headed a group that made a bid for an expansion team in Charlotte. In December 2002, the NBA picked Black Entertainment Television founder Robert Johnson to get the team, which will begin play next season and be known as the Bobcats.

The partnership — known as Atlanta Spirit LLC — includes Beau Turner, youngest son of former Hawks owner Ted Turner, and Turner's son-in-law, attorney Ruth-erford Seydel.

Ted Turner owned the Hawks and baseball's Atlanta Braves, but lost control of the teams through a series of corporate mergers. The Thrashers joined the NHL as an expansion team in 1999.

The Hawks are especially anxious to get the new owners on board. The founding franchise has unloaded most of its high-priced players, will likely miss the playoffs for the fifth year in a row and is plagued by some of the worst fan support in the NBA.

"It's a new day," guard Jason Terry said. "It's going to be interesting to see the first move they will make."

No one is more interested than embattled coach Terry Stotts, who has one year left on his contract.

"I am happy for the new owners. They are very passionate about owning the team," Stotts said. "If anybody has had to have patience, it's them. They jumped in September ready to get going, but they've had to wait. It's been a long time coming, but I'm glad it's here."

Time Warner decided to unload the Hawks and Thrashers to help relieve some of its massive debt. The company has backed off in its efforts to sell the Braves.

Turner Broadcasting, a Time Warner subsidiary, will retain 15 percent ownership of Atlanta Spirit, but will have no say in operations. The rest of the group is split into thirds.

One section is Atlanta-based and includes carpet company owner Bud Seretean, longtime Hawks executive Michael Gearon, his son, Michael Gearon Jr., Seydel and Beau Turner.

One third of the group is Washington-based and includes two former minority owners of the NHL's Washington's Capitals, Bruce Levenson and Ed Peskowitz, along with Todd Foreman.

— see *SALE* pg.10





HEADLINERS



TOYS

Among the anticipated products at the February American International Toy Fair in New York City (according to the New York Post) were a gun that shoots boogers, a squeezable doll that smells like rotten eggs, a flea (based on a pro wrestling character) that emits rank body odors after warning "I'm gonna blow," and a dissectible brain that oozes slime. Also at the show, St. Petersburg, Fla., inventor Tim Engler was pushing his pump-operated, heavy squirt-gun artillery that mounts on bicycles. (Not at the fair, but currently a hot Internet pass-around ad is a color poster for Japan's Kaba-Kick, a pink toy gun shaped like a hippo that appears designed for children to play Russian roulette, but with the loser merely kicked in the head by the hippo. The Kaba-Kick was discontinued by Takura Toys in 1992, but its ad apparently lives on.) [New York Post, 2-17-04] [St. Petersburg Times, 2-14-04] [no news source for Kaba-Kick]

Teacher Paid Too Much

New York City high school chemistry teacher Elihu McMahon, 69, reports daily to a do-nothing job, at \$77,000 a year, as the result of being ordered out of the classroom based on various complaints and administrative findings. In fact, according to a February New York Post story, he has spent about three-fourths of his time in the last 15 years in such jobs (since New York teachers have generous job protections), costing the schools an estimated \$600,000 in salary. Among the complaints against him: racist remarks to students (McMahon is black), insubordination, incompetent teaching, improper grading and sexual harassment (although McMahon blames the problems on bad administrators). [New York Post, 2-4-04]

Compelling Explanations

At press time, U.S. Air Force Capt. Jacqueline Chester was scheduled for court martial in Dover, Del., for having tested positive for cocaine; in her defense, her now-ex-husband said that during their marriage, he had occasionally rubbed cocaine on his genitals for pleasure-enhancement and that the otherwise-drug-free Jacqueline might have absorbed it through her own genital walls. [Army Times, 1-19-04]

Lame Excuses

According to a police report in January on the Canadian Broadcasting Corp. Web site, a driver in the Newfoundland district of Bonavista-Clarenville denied that he had an illegal radar detector, claiming that the black box on his dashboard was a "moose detector" that indeed had so far kept him safe from moose. And Joseph Hubbert, 34, explained to Minneapolis police on Christmas morning that the reason he got stuck in the chimney of Uncle Hugo's Mystery Bookstore was not because he was up to no good, but because he had accidentally dropped his keys down the chimney and had to crawl down to get them. [Canadian Broadcasting Corporation, 1-12-04] [Star Tribune, 2-3-04]

Kandahar Fire Department Tip of the Week

Open fires (e.g., bon fires, camp fires, controlled burning) are not permitted unless approved by the 451 AEG/CEF Base Fire Chief. Approved open fires will be located no closer than 50 feet from any structure and constantly attended by a competent person until they are totally extinguished. Fire extinguishers, garden hoses, buckets of water, or fire trucks must be available at the burn site.

In case of fire or emergency, contact the KAF fire department hotline at **841-1225**

Submitted by **TSgt Dean Case, Assistant Fire Chief**





—ANA from pg. 1

Mirwas.

Many other aspects of life were different in that era, stated Mirwas, there were no schools, no work for women, no video stores, and no movie theaters.

"Sometimes the Taliban would [conscript] one male from each family to fight against their will," Mirwas sadly mentioned.

After Sept. 11th, 2001, the US announced that they were coming to Afghanistan, stated Master Sgt. Syed Nadar, unit administrator of the 3/1 Commandos. The Afghan people were happy because they knew that the Americans would be able to put a stop to the Taliban and the fighting in Afghanistan.

There are more than nine ethnicities living in Afghanistan. They are classified as Tajic, Pushtun, Azara, Uzbek, Buloch, Pachie, Noristani, Turkman, and Arab.

"The people of Afghanistan were separated during the rule of the Taliban. The US came and united Afghanistan. They told us that we are all one brotherhood and we must fight together to defeat the Taliban," said Nadar.

With the coalition and ANA forces present, Afghanistan is now truly on its way to being a free nation.

"People can do what they want now, even girls can go to school," said Mirwas.

Freeing Afghanistan is the first step in stopping terrorism in the whole world.

"Now that the people have taken Afghanistan back, it can never be captured by the Taliban," said Nadar. "Because Afghanistan is no longer a Taliban strong hold, terrorism is reduced in the rest of the world. Afghanistan was the main training ground for the terrorists."

Afghanistan is the birth place of many of the young men that now make up the ANA. Being a soldier in the Afghan Army is an honor to them and their families.

"I want to help my nation, serve my country and its people," said Mirwas.

"The people need our help. It is the wish of our nation," said Nadar.

With the help of the coalition the ANA is almost 10,000 strong. It will not be long when the ANA will reach the goal of 70,000 troops.

"We joined the ANA so that the people can live a free life," said Nadar.

With family members left at home the ANA travels through Afghanistan to help defeat anything that would hinder the growth of this nation. The loyalty to the ANA will prove to be the perfect weapon against the enemy.

Like Sgt. Major Mirwas, the ANA is not a career for some of these soldiers. "I want to be in the ANA as long as it takes to better my country, then I can retire with my family," Mirwas proudly said.

Mirwas is only twenty but the hardships he has faced

in his life make him seem ten years older.

"I want to be in the ANA until Afghanistan is a better place for my family," added Nadar.

"It is difficult to be in the ANA, it is important for us to work with the coalition to rid this country of the enemy. The coalition will not be here forever and we must be ready to take over and finish the job. If we don't fight for our homes then who will," said Nadar.

The training the ANA receives is far superior to that of any other peace keeping force in this country, and this includes the Afghan Militia

Force and the local police.

"We train night and day, we are the commando unit. It is our job to be well trained and to be able to eliminate the enemy threat as quick as possible," said Nadar. "The more training we receive the more successful the ANA will be."

With the ANA coming up in the ranks it will not be long when the Afghan people will be able to fend for themselves and overcome the years of oppression.



Sgt. Major Mirwas watches over the distribution of food to his troops





PRT from pg. 5

Kandahar, Oruzgun, Zabol, Helmand, and Nimroz. That is why work is now under way to establish new PRT bases at Tarin Kowt and at Qalat, the provincial capital of Zabol.

"One of the difficulties we have is just the expanse that we are expected to cover. It's an all-day drive to get to Nimroz. Until we get a PRT there, there is no place to base from. A lot of our activities are within one day's drive — maybe two days' drive. We hope to, by expanding the PRTs, have a base of operation where we can expand. So when Tarin Kowt, for example, is stood up, they'll have a civil affairs team that can base out of there. One day's driving distance will cover just about three-quarters of the province. And then they can start doing projects in that area," Duffy said.

Attention has focused on the planned Tarin Kowt PRT and the road project there because Oruzgun Province is the home of both Afghan leader Hamid Karzai and the spiritual leader of the Taliban movement, Mullah Omar. Indeed, U.S. officials say combat operations against suspected Taliban fighters in Oruzgun Province are "ongoing." But Duffy notes that the Tarin Kowt road is just a part of the overall reconstruction plan in the south.

"Actually that road is one of seven roads in the secondary road project that we are working on. The intent right now is to go from the ring road [between Kabul and Kandahar], or Highway 1, [and build] roads down to each of the provincial capitals — influencing distant areas from the built-up areas. Right now, Highway 1 runs through Kandahar. But, for example, it doesn't go through Lashkar Gah, which is the capital of Helmand. It doesn't go through Tarin Kowt, which is the capital of Oruzgun. So we're trying to do those connecting roads to get us to the provincial capitals. The intent is to do those simultaneously. Six roads will be completed [to provincial capitals in the south] within a year," Duffy said.

And the reconstruction efforts go beyond road projects in Oruzgun Province.

"Along with the road projects, we have a pilot program that we've been working on with the UN, the Afghan government, and the international community, developing an integrated strategy that not only builds the roads through [to the provincial capitals] but also along those roads, there will be other connecting roads that will get to the villages that aren't along those main roads. There are schools and clinics planned for renovation and repair. There are 150 water projects, from irrigation systems to drinking-water wells. So it's not doing the roads first. There are all these other projects. So hopefully, within a year you'll see a substantial increase in all the facilities in the district that is north of Kandahar and connects to Oruzgun," Duffy said.



One reason that PRTs are able to move quickly on reconstruction projects is that they can gain access to appropriated funds without the months of bureaucratic delays faced by some international aid groups.

Colonel Craig Morton, who oversees plans for all PRTs in Afghanistan, says worthwhile projects can quickly draw funds from \$40 million in the Commander's Emergency Response Program.

Colonel David Bennett, the Bagram-based public affairs officer for civil affairs projects of the U.S.-led task force "Victory," notes that PRTs also draw upon international donations. "USAID is, of course, a large player in that arena. We have something that's called ODOCHA. Those funds are for reconstruction purposes," he said. "The British have been very actively involved in providing funding for activities. The Germans are getting involved now. The New Zealand contingent has been funding. We actually have [South] Korean assets here as well. It truly is a coalition and it truly is an international participation in funding."

The finance mechanisms allowed the Kandahar PRT to resolve an emergency last year at the Kajiki Dam in northern Helmand Province when its last functioning turbine, a decades-old electricity generator, threatened to spin itself apart. USAID funds were used to bring in 14 mobile diesel-fuel generators that kept electricity flowing into Kandahar while replacement parts for the 9-megawatt turbine were being built. Today, the turbine is back on line and work is continuing to repair the other turbine at the dam.

Duffy says that when that project is completed, the 1-megawatt mobile generators can be moved to supply power elsewhere in Afghanistan.

Editors Notes:

This story was broadcast across Afghanistan in the Dari and Pashto languages on March 8th by Radio Azadi, the Afghan service of Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty.

SALE from pg. 7

Belkin owns a third by himself. He will concentrate on the Hawks, while the Washington-based group — with its hockey experience — and Seydel will work with the Thrashers.

Peskowitz will be primarily responsible for Philips Arena, both as a sports and concert venue



US anthrax vaccine from Manchester

A MANCHESTER firm is to help America inoculate 25 million people in the event of an Anthrax attack.

Blackley-based biotechnology company Avecia Ltd is on the brink of winning one of two contracts to start supplying the vaccine, which could be deployed in a number of US cities.

The US government has already bought enough smallpox vaccine for every person in the country in case terrorists launch an attack with the spores.

The purchase of anthrax vaccine comes as the group which yesterday claimed it carried out the Madrid bombing vowed to bring a "black wind of death" to the US.

Within two years America will have enough anthrax vaccine to immunise every person in the New York and Washington areas.








Contracts are expected to go to VaxGen of Brisbane, California, and Avecia. Initially they will make enough vaccine for two million people and then bid for larger contracts.

The larger contracts would mean making 75 million doses - enough to vaccinate at least 25 million people, nearly a tenth of the American population. It will cost the US at least £500 million.

In America, reports have said that Avecia has already landed the giant contract.

But Avecia spokesman Roger Johnstone insisted it had not yet been completed. "We are confident but the contract has not yet been awarded," he said.

Anthrax is a bug which kills 30 to 50 per cent of people who are exposed to it, even if they receive medical care.

KANDAHAR WEEKLY FORECAST						
Mon Mar 15	Tues Mar 16	Wed Mar 17	Thu Mar 18	Fri Mar 19	Sat Mar 20	Sun Mar 21
 DUST Partly Sunny and Dusty	 DUST Mostly Cloudy rain venty and dusty	 DUST Mostly Cloudy Blowing Dust	 DUST Partly Cloudy and Dusty	 DUST Mostly Cloudy and dusty	 DUST After- noon wind and dust	 DUST Incrsg clouds wind and dust
HIGH	91	81	80	79	83	84
LOW	55	61	48	48	53	55
SUNRISE	0145	0144	0142	0140	0139	0138
SUNSET	1345	1346	1347	1348	1349	1349
KANDAHAR COMBAT WEATHER TEAM						

Mountain Warrior Weekly is always accepting comments and suggestions as to how we can improve your newspaper. If you have comments or suggestions, or simply just want to be added to our emailing list, email the staff at Kandaharpresscenter@yahoo.com

